

Remarks

The amendment to Specification indicates the status of related applications.

Claims 18-28 remain in the application. Claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17, which are already being prosecuted in the U.S. Application Serial No. 09/091,998, have been canceled. Claims 18, 24-25 and 27-28 have been amended. Claim 5 and 16 have already been canceled during the prosecution of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/091,998.

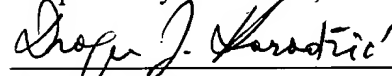
Claims 18, 24-25, and 27-28 have been amended to introduce the definition of a water-soluble polymer claimed in original Claim 1, now canceled.

Claims 20, 22 and 24 have been amended to correct the word "phosphonate" to read "phosphate". These amendments introduce no new matter since they involve correction of obvious typographic errors. Support for these amendments is found in the original specification and its claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by this preliminary amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES**

**In the specification**

The following new paragraph has been added at page 1 of the specification immediately after the title of the Invention:

**"Cross-Reference to Related Application**

This application is a divisional of pending application serial number 09/091,998, filed June 23, 1998 (a 371 of PCT/US97/19322, filed October 22, 1997), which claims benefit from U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/028,993 filed October 23, 1996, now abandoned."

**In the claims**

Claims 1-17 have been canceled.

Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

18. (amended) A formulation for oral administration which comprises a water-soluble polyether glycol polymer which comprises: a structural backbone of carbon atoms and oxygen atoms where there are at least two consecutive carbon atoms present between each oxygen atom; a moiety on the backbone of the polymer or a functionalized derivative on the polymer, that is cationic at physiological pH and permits complexation with phosphate or oxalate; and an average molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 750,000 Daltons~~polymer of Claim 1~~ with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

20. (amended) A method for the reduction of phosphate~~phosphonate~~ or oxalate in vivo in an animal which comprises administering an effective amount of a formulation of Claim 18.

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

22. (amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the effective amount for reduction of phosphate~~phosphonate~~ is from about 1 to about 15 grams per meal.

Claim 24 has been amended as follows:

24. (amended) A use of a water-soluble polyether glycol polymer which comprises: a structural backbone of carbon atoms and oxygen atoms where there are at least two consecutive carbon atoms present between each oxygen atom; a moiety on the backbone of the polymer or a functionalized derivative on the polymer, that is cationic at physiological pH and permits complexation with phosphate or oxalate; and an average molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 750,000 Daltons~~polymer of Claim 1~~ as an agent for the reduction of phosphate~~phosphonate~~ or oxalate in vivo in an animal.

Claim 25 has been amended as follows:

25. (amended) A process for preparing a water-soluble polyether glycol polymer which comprises: a structural backbone of carbon atoms and oxygen atoms where there are at least two consecutive carbon atoms present between each oxygen atom; a moiety on the backbone of the polymer or a functionalized derivative on the polymer, that is cationic at physiological pH and permits complexation with phosphate or oxalate; and an average molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 750,000 Daltons which processes the polymer of Claim 1 which comprises reacting an epihalohydrin, in the presence of a Lewis acid of moderate strength, in a solvent that will not act as a chain terminator.

Claim 27 has been amended as follows:

27. (amended) A process for preparing a water-soluble polyether glycol polymer which comprises: a structural backbone of carbon atoms and oxygen atoms where there are at least two consecutive carbon atoms present between each oxygen atom; a moiety on the backbone of the polymer or a functionalized derivative on the polymer, that is cationic at physiological pH and permits complexation with phosphate or oxalate; and an average molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 750,000 Daltons which processes the polymer of Claim 1 which comprises reacting a 3,4-dichloro-1,2-butane oxirane, in the presence of a Lewis acid of moderate strength, in a solvent that will not act as a chain terminator.

Claim 28 has been amended as follows:

28. (amended) The process for preparing a water-soluble polyether glycol polymer which comprises: a structural backbone of carbon atoms and oxygen atoms where there are at least two consecutive carbon atoms present between each oxygen atom; a moiety on the backbone of the polymer or a functionalized derivative on the polymer, that is cationic at physiological pH and permits complexation with phosphate or oxalate; and an average molecular weight from about 5,000 to about 750,000 Daltons which processes polymer as defined in Claim 1 wherein a catalyst is present selected from triethyloxonium hexafluorophosphate, fluoboric acid, triethyl aluminum, and 1,2-ethyl di(trifluoromethanesulfonate).